

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 551
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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LIMA 5397

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PLOS CI PE PBOR
SUBJ: VISIT OF CHILEAN FONMIN CUBILLOS

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1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERNAN CUBILLOS VISITED LIMA JUNE 14-17 AS THE GUEST OF HIS PERUVIAN COUNTERPART. THE GOP WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO INVEST THE VISIT WITH WARMTH AND GLITTER. THE PUBLIC LANGUAGE OF THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS MARKED BY EFFUSIVE PROTESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND DEDICATION TO COOPERATION. IN FACT THEY DID APPARENTLY GET ALONG QUITE WELL PERSONALLY, WHILE SHARING EVIDENT SATISFACTION THAT TWO CIVILIANS ARE NOW CARRYING ON THE PERU-CHILE DIALOGUE. CUBILLOS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE IN COMING TO LIMA WAS TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH DE LA PUENTE. CUBILLOS DISCOUNTED THE PURPORTED PERUVIAN THREAT AGAINST CHILE BUT DID EXPRESS CONCERN OVER HIS COUNTRY'S PROBLEM WITH ARGENTINA AND THE HOPE THAT PERU COULD BE KEPT OUT OF IT. END COMMENT. END
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2. THE CUBILLOS VISIT WAS GIVEN A STRONG ADVANCE BUILD-UP AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE DURING THE EVENT IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA. ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AT THE AIRPORT FEATURED AN IMPRESSIVE HONOR GUARD DRESSED IN EARLY 19TH CENTURY "HUSARES DE JUNIN" CAVALRY UNIFORMS.

CUBILLOS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE HAD COME "TO STRENGTHEN EVEN MORE THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP" UNITING PERU AND CHILE, AND TO UNDERTAKE A COMPLETE AND OPEN DIALOGUE, INCLUDING "EVERYTHING OF INTEREST TO PERU". QUESTIONED ON THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR ISSUE, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO RAISE SUBJECTS CONCERNING OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. THE VISIT WAS MARKED BY EXTENSIVE CEREMONY AND CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL ACTIVITY. THE TWO MINISTERS DECORATED ONE ANOTHER, CUBILLOS WAS DECLARED AN HONORED GUEST OF THE CITY OF LIMA, DE LA PUENTE OFFERED DINNER AT TORRE TAGLE WITH RANKING MEMBERS OF THE GOP AND A SURPRISINGLY LARGE CONTINGENT FROM PERU'S OLD-LINE OLIGARCHY IN ATTENDANCE, AND THE CHILEANS RESPONDED WITH AN ELABORATE EVENING RECEPTION. THE SPEECHES AND TOASTS EMPHASIZED THE INEVITABLE THEMES OF COMMON HERITAGE, ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL DEDICATION TO PEACE. BOTH MEN EXPRESSED PUBLIC SATISFACTION THAT TWO CIVILIANS WERE NOW CARRYING ON A DIALOGUE BEGUN BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

4. DE LA PUENTE IN HIS TOAST AT TORRE TAGLE REFERRED WITH ELOQUENCE AND APPARENT FEELING TO THE HOPE THAT THE NEXT GENERATION OF PERUVIANS AND CHILEANS WILL HAVE ESCAPED THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCES OF THE PAST. CUBILLOS
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FOR HIS PART SPOKE DIRECTLY OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC, ASSERTING THAT NEITHER PERU NOR CHILE HAD WANTED A WAR THAT WAS THE PRODUCT OF AN AGE WHEN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS WERE SETTLED BY FORCE OF ARMS -- AN AGE NOW PAST. HE FURTHER SAID THAT "THE PROGNOSTICATIONS OF THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEMSELVES -- TO TRYING TO RESUSCITATE OLD QUARRELS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES THAT ONLY WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE" HAVE BEEN RESOUNDINGLY REJECTED.

5. THERE WAS NOT MUCH ELSE OF INTEREST IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. DE LA PUENTE DID REMARK AT ONE POINT THAT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE U.S. IT IS NECESSARY TO BALANCE CAREFULLY THE "INEVITABLE INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE DEFENSE OF GRAND MORAL PRINCIPLES (I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS), THE PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL AUTONOMY AND COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT". CUBILLOS ON HIS SIDE PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF PINOCHET AND MORALES BERMUDEZ TO DEVELOP THE TIES BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE, TRANSMITTED THE FORMER'S "AFFECTIONATE EMBRACE AND SPECIAL GREETINGS" TO THE LATTER AT A MEETING ON JUNE 15 AND ALLOWED AS HOW THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS IS

STILL OPEN.

6. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED JUNE 16, DE LA PUENTE AND CUBILLOS EMPHASIZED THE PURPORTED GROWING UNDERSTANDING AND DYNAMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU. THE COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMS BOTH COUNTRIES' ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, TO THE DOCTRINE OF NONINTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND TO FAITHFUL COMPLIANCE WITH TREATIES, IT REJECTS THREATS OR THE USE OF FORCE IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND REAFFIRMS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF NATIONS TO CHOOSE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS BEST SUITED TO THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS RENEWED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A RESTRUCTURED INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE WORK OF SSOD, AND THE TLATELOLCO AGREEMENT. THEY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AS THE FIRST PHASE OF A PROGRAM OF "COMPREHENSIVE AND REALISTIC" DISARMAMENT, AND SINGLED OUT VENEZUELA'S RECENT INITIATIVE ON THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION FOR SPECIAL PRAISE.

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7. THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS ON THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA TO ADOPT A COMMON POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. ON HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION AND OFFERS THE "FIRMEST SUPPORT" TO THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEIVED IN THE BROAD SENSE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES WITH ALARM THE INCREASE IN TERRORISM. IN LOS MATTERS, IT REAFFIRMS THE 1952 SANTIAGO ACCORD ON THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND RATIFIES THE TWO COUNTRIES' POSITION ON AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF DEEP SEA BEDS. THE JOINT STATEMENT CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL CREDIT AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR CREDIT, REFINANCING, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OR EXCESSIVE DEMANDS. IT ALSO PLEDGES A JOINT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE PROTECTIONIST PRACTICES BY INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS THAT CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF THE NIEO AND EXPRESSES BOTH COUNTRIES' CONCERN AT RECENT U.S. INITIATIVES TO RESTRICT THE IMPORTATION OF COPPER. FINALLY, THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES THE CHILEAN INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY FONMIN DE LA PUENTE, WHICH
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THE PERUVIAN OFFICIAL ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING A DATE.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIGNING OF THE COMMUNIQUE, THE MINISTERS INITIALED TWO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON TOURISM AND TRANSIT OF PERSONS IN THE TACNA-ARICA BORDER REGION. IN AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER SAYING FAREWELL TO CUBILLOS ON JUNE 18, DE LA PUENTE ANNOUNCED THAT PERU AND CHILE UNILATERALLY WILL COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC IN 1979, EACH COUNTRY MARKING THE EVENT IN THE MANNER DEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE, AN APPARENT REJECTION OF AMBASSADOR ARBULU'S REPORTED PROPOSALS FOR JOINT COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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9. COMMENT: THE PERUVIANS WENT ALL OUT TO GIVE THE VISIT AS MUCH GLITTER AS POSSIBLE. CUBILLOS SEEMED TO BE PLEASED. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD HIT IT OFF WELL WITH DE LA PUENTE FROM THE OUTSET; HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE IN COMING WAS TO ESTABLISH A FRIENDLY, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP IN THAT QUARTER. CUBILLOS ALSO SAID THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ IMPRESSED HIM AS A MODERATE, PRAGMATIC MAN UNLIKELY TO EMBARK ON MILITARY ADVENTURES. HE THOUGHT PERUVIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST CHILE MOST UNLIKELY IN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES BUT WAS PREOCCUPIED BY THE DANGERS INHERENT IN HIS COUNTRY'S DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA. HE

SAID HE HOPED TO ENSURE PERUVIAN NEUTRALITY IN THAT DISPUTE.

10. THE PERUVIANS, INCLUDING DE LA PUENTE, FOUND CUBILLOS AGREEABLY YOUNG, BRIGHT AND PRESENTABLE. MANY SEEMED PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT TWO CIVILIANS WERE NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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SO MUCH IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NO MILITARY IN THE CHILEAN DELEGATION. THERE WAS SOME FEELING HERE THAT CUBILLOS HAD BEEN GUILTY OF BAD TASTE IN HIS REFERENCE TO THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC, BUT THE CRITICS SEEMED PREPARED TO FORGIVE THE GAFFE AS THE RESULT OF INEXPERIENCE. OVERALL, THE VISIT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS A SUCCESS, AN EVENT THAT SHOULD HELP FURTHER TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND DISPEL SOME OF THE ANXIETIES THAT THE PROGNOSTICATORS CUBILLOS REFERRED TO FEED ON. END CONFIDENTIAL.

11. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THE COMMUNIQUE TO THE DEPARTMENT (ARA/AND) AND SANTIAGO. SHLAUDEMANN

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